VII. *A Letter from* Mr. Ralph Thoresby, *to* Dr. Martin Liſter, *Coll. Med. Lond. & S.R.S. giving an Account of a* Roman *Pottery, near* Leeds *in* Yorkſhire.

SIR,

I Had once the Happineſs in my Father's time to ſee you here, and take very kindly your honourable mention of him in your curious Letter Publiſhed in the *Philoſophical Collect.* N° 4. The Altar is yet with me, with a conſiderable addition of other Curioſities, relating as well to Antiquitys as natural Rarities, to which (if I miſremember not) you was a Benefactor, in beſtowing ſome valuable ſcars of a Coraline Urn, and of a Jet Ring, with ſome Indian Fruit, *&c.* my natural Propenſion to ſuch things ſteals away more time then I can well afford, and makes me alſo troubleſome to ſuch generous tempers, as I find as well willing as able to aſſiſt me; and therefore I preſume this once to deſire your thoughts concerning a *Roman Pottery* that I have lately diſcovered in my Survey of this Pariſh. 'Tis upon *Blackmore*, about two Miles from *Leedes* (the old *Leogeolium*) the Name *Hawcaſter rig* gave me the firſt occaſion to hope for ſome *Roman* Ruines there; but inſtead of the Remains of a regular Camp or Fortification, I was ſurpriſed to find ſeveral Rounds, or circular Heaps of Rubbiſh, abundantly too ſmall for any Military uſe; one by the Wheel was Sixteen Perches round, another in walking Seventy ſix Paces, and theſe I take to be Ruines of ſome of the very Furnaces; 'tis a Sandy Ground, yet plenty of Clay at no great diſtance; the Countrey People tell me of heaps of Stagg and Cinders, but I had not the hap to meet with any, the place

being grown over with Moſs, *&c.* and the whole at preſent covered with Snow, that I can make no further Diſcovery till more ſeaſonable Weather; in the mean time I ſhould be glad to know of you the bigneſs of thoſe *Metæ* you obſerved at *Santon*, and what Authors treat of the *Roman Plaſticks*. I am ready to fancy theſe might be for their *Bricks*, becauſe of the great plenty of Clay in the Neighbourhood, and the great number of thoſe *Roman Bricks*, yet to be ſeen in the Ruines of *Kirkſtall*-Abbey, and that it belonged to the *Romans*, I conclude, partly becauſe the Inhabitants have no Tradition of any Modern Pottery, but chiefly becauſe it is ſeated upon a Branch of the *Roman-way*, or one of their *Viæ Vicinnales*, that leads from the great Military Road upon *Bramham-moor*, by *Thorner*, *Shadwell*, and *Kirkſtall* to *Cambodunum*, beſides the very name ſeems to import ſome *Roman Caſtrum*. Near the adjoining Eminency that the *Saxons* call'd *Haws* or *Hougs*, and the word is yet retained in ſome parts of *Yorkſhire*, witneſs *Hamleton-Hough* in the Road to *Selby*; and to conclude, the Village that ſucceeded the *Old Pottery* is called *Potter-Newton*. If you pleaſe, Sir, to favour me with a Line, that I may have your Sanction, if theſe Conjectures be ſo happy as to merit it, you will thereby very much honour,

Worthy Sir,

Yours, &c.

VIII.